

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A single use self-contained surgical knife having a single blade, comprising:
  - a. containment means for housing said surgical knife blade;
  - b. stabilization means having at least a pair of slot faces for preventing twisting of said blade;
  - ~~c. lateral stabilization means having at least two shaft support bushings for supporting a shaft carrying said blade;~~
  - ~~d. c. retraction means for exerting spring tension on said knife blade to move said blade into said containment means;~~
  - ~~e. d. locking means comprising a rectangular lug misaligned to a rectangular opening in a knurled ring member, for locking said knife blade in an 'in-use' position; and wherein a user turning means for turning turns said knurled ring member after using said surgical knife in order to release the rectangular lug and retract the knife blade permanently into the said containment casing.~~
2. (original): A single use self-contained surgical knife as recited by claim 1, wherein said slot faces are formed in a slot block, and said slot block is attached to the containment casing.

3. (original): A single use, self-contained surgical knife as recited by claim 2, wherein said slot faces are coated with a low friction material.
4. (original): A single use, self-contained surgical knife, as recited by claim 2, wherein said slot block is fabricated from PTFE, HDPE or other low friction material.
5. (original): A single use, self-contained surgical knife, as recited by claim 1, wherein said knurled ring member is coated with a low friction coating for easy release of said rectangular lug.
6. (currently amended): A process for making a single use self-contained surgical knife, comprising the steps of:
  - a. assembling together a plurality of components to form a central knife shaft assembly of said surgical knife, said components including:
    - (i) a central shaft;
    - (ii) a welded knife blade;
    - (iii) a welded cylindrical lug; and
    - (v) a welded rectangular lug;
  - b. assembling component parts of a two part containment casing structure having a containment member and a support member capable of providing lateral and twist support for said knife blade and said central knife shaft assembly;
  - c. inserting said central shaft assembly into said support member;
  - d. inserting a compression spring to rest on the said support member;

- e. inserting a knurled ring member aligning a rectangular opening with a rectangular lug of said central knife shaft assembly;
- f. ~~applying pressure with a specialized tool to compressing the said compression~~ |  
spring against said cylindrical lug; and
- g. turning said knurled ring member to misalign said opening with said lug.